FOSTER PARENTS
BRIDGING THE GAP OF SEPARATION BETWEEN CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES
- A CONTINUUM OF CONTACT -

- Exchange letters with child's family
- Call child's parent on phone
- Request pictures of child's family to display in child's room
- Give parents pictures of child
- Share copies of homework and report cards with family
- Have positive view of BP
- Talk openly with child about family
- Send snack/activity for visit
- Encourage parent's progress
- Dress child up for visits
- Provides written info for SAR
- Shares progress reports w/BP
- FP hosts/arranges sibling visits
- Brag to BP about child

- Transport child to visit
- Talk with parent at visit
- Encourage parent to phone
- Non-threatening attitude
- Meet child's family @ placement
- Refer to child as "your child" to BP
- Share parenting information
- Attend staffings, SAR's, reviews
- Help BP find community resources
- Encourage/reassure reunification
- Share child's lifebook with parents
- Attend training to learn how to work directly with birth parent
- Learn about, understand and respect the birth parents' culture
- Request cultural info from BP

- Take/pick up child to/at parent's home
- Serve as parent's mentor
- Review child's visits with parent
- Give parent's verbal progress reports
- Ask parent to come to appts.
- FP transports BP to meetings
- Invite BP to attend school programs
- Assist in planning child's return home

- Welcome parents into your home
- Attend parenting classes w/parents
- Arrange family visits w/parents
- Serve as support to family following reunification
- Foster parents provides respite care
- Include BP in farewell activities

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SOCIAL WORKERS
BRIDGING THE GAP OF SEPARATION BETWEEN CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES
• A CONTINUUM OF CONTACT •

• Encourage exchange of information between BP and FP
• Have BP/FP exchange pictures
• Talk positively about BP to FP
• Schedule regular/frequent visits
• Arrange phone contact between FP/BP
• Share all information with FP & BP
• Encourage FP to host sibling visits
• Serve as liaison between FP &
• Describe FP in non-identifying terms at placement
• Debrief FP regarding BP problems/needs
• Exchange monthly progress reports with BP/FP
• Serve as positive role model to FP and BP
• Assist FP/BP in understanding cultural differences
• Help FP understand the BP’s needs
• Insure that FP/BP attend meetings
• Facilitate talk between BP/FP
• Have FP and BP meet at placement
• Ask BP/FP to work on lifebook together
• Encourage BP to permit FP to call
• Set clear boundaries for contact
• Facilitate the development of a positive relationship between birth parent and foster parent
• Arrange an icebreaker for BP/FP
• Participate in visitations
• Assist FP in welcoming FP to BP home
• Encourage FP to transport child to home
• Permit FP to invite BP to attend all appts.
• Encourage FP to transport BP to agency meetings and child’s appointments
• Encourage FP to allow BP to call FH
• Assist BP/FP in managing conflict
• Mediate and resolve conflicts
• Talk openly with BP/FP about their concerns
• Arrange an icebreaker for BP/FP
• Set clear boundaries for contact
• Facilitate the development of a positive relationship between birth parent and foster parent
• Arrange an icebreaker for BP/FP
• Participate in visitations
• Assist FP in welcoming BP to home
• Allow BP/FP to schedule all visits
• Encourage post reunif. contact
• Suggest FP provide respite care after reunification
• Discuss how FP can support BP
• Empower FP to set limits

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